104-10129-10320

File
James Earl Ray

OS 1754245

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JAMES EARL RAY OUT OF JAIL ISOLATION

PETROS, Tenn., July 10 (AP) —For the first time since James Earl Ray was arrested three years ago for slaying the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he has been allowed to mingle with other prisoners—both black and white. He had been kept isolated under tight security.

Warden Robert H. Moore of Brushy Mountain State Prison, the state's maximum security prison, said Wednesday that Ray, 40 years old, "will be allowed the same privileges as other prisoners."

These privileges, he said, include "mixing and mingling" with 343 other convicts. The prison's population is about 40 per cent black.

Warden Moore said he had discussed the move with Ray, who is serving 99 years after pleading guilty to the sniper slaying of Dr. King at Memphis in 1968.

"I wouldn't have forced him out into the prison population if Ray had felt like he was endangered," the warden said.

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NEW YORK TIMES

11 JUL 1971